

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Leiilima Joy, 58, former taxicab driver

"My Uncle Sam Punohu was well known. He was known as 'Pinhead' in Waikīkī. My uncle worked for George Mossman in Lalani Hawaiian Village. He was a coconut tree climber and he was well known for his hat weaving which he had learned from--what I've gathered, from his friend, 'Hawksha.' [He] taught my uncle how to weave the coconut hat. He was the best in Hawai'i. My uncle was the best."

Leiilima Joy, one of three children, was born in Honolulu, O'ahu in 1928 to Rose Punohu Joy and "Tall" Delmas Joy. She grew up in the Waikīkī home of her grandmother, Esther Naleialoha Ua Punohu.

She attended Waikīkī Elementary, Washington Intermediate, and McKinley High School.

She worked as a pineapple cannery worker, taxicab driver, and courier.

She now resides in Waimalu, O'ahu.

Tape No. 13-82-1-86

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Leiilima Joy (LJ)

May 7, 1986

Waimalu, O'ahu

BY: Michi Kodama-Nishimoto (MK)

MK: This is an interview with Leiilima Joy at her home in Waimalu, O'ahu on May 7, 1986. The interviewer is Michi Kodama-Nishimoto.

Okay. First of all, Leiilima, what is your full name?

LJ: Full name? Esther Leiilima Joy.

MK: And what was your mother's full name?

LJ: Rose Punohu Joy.

MK: And tell me about your mother's family background--what you remember from your family--what you were told about them.

LJ: My grandmother which was my mother's mother, raised me and her name was Esther Naleialoha Ua Punohu and she had bought this place in Waikiki in 1916. At that time the address of that street was 189 Paoakalani Avenue. My mother was her only surviving child and then remembering the good, yeah, my mom really took good care of me.

I was raised up by them--by the both of them more--learning of growing up. My mother, as far as I can remember--she made quilts. She was very good at making quilts. She had learned, we call in those days, kapa kuiki.

At the time of her death, she left back four of those quilts which rightfully belong to the three of us--the children--myself, my two brothers, Michael Lonoikauakini Joy, and Delmas Kealii Joy. Mom was always a very hardworking woman. We had a nice home. We had nice living quarters. My mother was very neat. Everything she did in our home was very clean. That's why till today I have kept up this habit. She always ironed our clothes whether it was starch or water clothes.

We went to school. We were very neat. Our home was always neat. My dad went to work with very neat clothes. He worked at Pearl Harbor. He was a rigger at shop 72. When I was old enough to help

her I helped her with the chores, the household and the yard. We had a nice yard which we upkept 'cause of my grandmother. She was always in the yard weeding. Our yard was very very clean.

Maybe some of the old people who can remember growing up with me know of our place where I was brought up by her. During the war [World War II] she worked for the engineers [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers]. That was camouflage--she worked during that time. My grandmother did. My mom stayed home and took care of me. My dad worked Pearl Harbor at that time so I was living home with Mom. But as far as growing up, we were brought up very religious. My grandmother was a religious person because all my granduncles were all kahus. They all hold a ministry position in Ho'omana Na'auao churches. But as far as I can remember . . .

MK: Where was that church located?

LJ: Ho'omana Na'auao was located--the mother church--on Cooke Street. The kahu at that time was [the Reverend] Andrew Bright. The family's well known--the Bright family. I used to go to church with her when I was little. As far as I can remember I remember going with her. We caught the trolley and I rode the streetcars with her. At that time when they did away with the streetcar they had other kind (buses) running and I caught this little bus with my grandma. I used to go everywhere and every place so that I may know who the family was and I may know who that she pointed out to me where--that's part of my growing up.

But when you're young you don't know until you grow older and you find out why they took you to these kind of places. So when you grow up you know. She was a stern person but she was a loving person. So was my mom. She used to tell me a lot of stories of her background--of growing up in Puna.

They come from the Big Island of Hawai'i in Puna, 'Opihikao which is in Puna. That's where my grandmother and (the) rest of her family and her parents were born. She took me to this particular place in Puna and showed me the house . . .

MK: What kind of house was it?

LJ: It was a regular--a home, an old type of house that you see in pictures of old--old houses with a front porch. As far as I can remember--a tin roof. And Puna--wasn't very--wasn't luxury but it was a home and they live on this corner and then she showed me the house. I should have known at that time there was a point of interest. (I would like to) take pictures of this place where they were born (someday when I go back to Hilo).

Then she took me to Keaukaha where my other granduncle (Kaimilani Ua also known as Benjamin Ua) lived which was her brother. I used to make frequent trips with her on the boats, Hualālai, Wai'ale'ale, the Haleakalā. I rode these boats with my grandma.

As little as I was--I can't remember the age but I know I was old enough to do on my own--probably around the area of six or seven--in that area--maybe around eight. But I know I rode these boats with her because I used to go to Hilo. We used to leave here on Friday and I think we used to get to Hilo on Saturday morning.

And as far as growing up--they really brought me up good. My grandmother taught me something that I haven't forgotten till today. (She taught) to keep our culture. She spoke only in Hawaiian. She taught us in Hawaiian. She taught us religion in Hawaiian and she taught us to pray in Hawaiian. We used to have family devotions every day, morning and evening with her until her passing in 1966. She passed away June 1, 1966. She was at the age of eighty-nine years old.

But prior to that I remember everything that she taught me. I never forgot it. My mom also was a very gracious woman. Our house in Waikiki was more like a stopping point. All the families came from the island--they would come there. Our house was more like a shelter for them. If they didn't have a place to stay they stayed there.

In those days you didn't have this kind of trip where you get on a plane and can go rent--like they have now--go to a hotel. They didn't have that. So you usually go to a family house and stayed. Our house was that house. All the family knew--and as long as my grandma was alive the house was open to them.

My mom and my grandma did a lot for the families. She had a lot of nephews on Maui--also in Hilo. Very few I don't know of--Kaua'i--little of Moloka'i from her but mostly Hawai'i, the Big Island. That's where the family was from. (Also here in Honolulu, Nanakuli.)

MK: In the house that you grew up in how many people always lived there?

LJ: Well, was my mom, my grandmother, my dad. I forgot to mention this man--he's more like an uncle to us. His name was Daniel--we call him Alae Bungo--him and my uncle, Sam Punohu Jr., which was my grandmother's son that she hānai. She hānaied him. Just that, just this family until prior to my brother Michael when he was born in '41 and Keali'i in 1950 we lived in the house.

MK: Your uncle, Sam Punohu Jr., I've heard about him from other people. Can you tell me about why he's so well known?

LJ: My Uncle Sam Punohu was well known. He was known as "Pinhead" in Waikiki. My uncle worked for George Mossman in Lalani Hawaiian Village. He was a coconut tree climber and he was well known for his hat weaving which he had learned from--what I've gathered from his friend, "Hawksha". [He] taught my uncle how to weave the coconut hat. He was the best in Hawai'i. My uncle was the best.

He introduced the felt-type of weaving and he made baskets and he made pineapples that you can, with a coconut stick, you can poke flowers inside and use it as decorations in luaus. I seen my uncle weave when he was a very good hat weaver. I haven't seen anybody who can top him yet. But he made baskets before the Samoans even brought those baskets here--he made those baskets. He used to make all my Easter baskets. I didn't have to buy any. (Chuckles) He was just good. He knew how to weave. He was very very good.

As a tree climber he was the best. He worked for shows--for luau shows at Mossman's (Lalani Hawaiian Village) and he worked for the Kodak show for Louise Akeo. He was the first tree climber. He was the first poi pounder and he was the first hat weaver for Kodak Show Hawai'i. I know 'cause I used to watch him down at Sans Souci with Clara Inter. That's where I used to go watch Clara Inter ("Hilo Hattie") dance with my uncle.

But in later years he got away from that because when you're young you get into mischief. People change, yeah--just like myself--we change.

MK: And your uncle you said--was there some kind of competition when they climbed the coconut trees?

LJ: There was no competition because there was nobody can beat him.

MK: You mentioned something about a Hawaiian Electric guy coming and putting on the gear and competing . . .

LJ: Yeah, yeah, but . . .

MK: . . . with your uncle?

LJ: I heard about it. I don't know who this guy was but even those guys with putting on the gears and try climbing up couldn't [climb faster]. He was just tops before. They couldn't outrun him or outbeat him up the tree. While they were going up he was down already. That's how fast he was. I mean I've seen him climb. I mean they don't pick small trees. They pick tall trees for him to climb. They do not pick small trees those days, not like today, yeah.

MK: Okay you mentioned Mossman's Lalani Hawaiian Village. What do you remember about that village?

LJ: I remember a lot about that place. It was the place in Waikiki at that time. He had all the top movie stars at his luaus. He had all dignitaries. He had the tops. His show was a regular Hawaiian show but it was not like the da kine shows that they put on today. His hulas were very very ancient and he had all the tikis that you can think of in that village.

They call it a village because it was a village. He had grass

huts--all kind of grass huts in there and he had a place where he'd teach his school--Hawaiian school plus he had his house in there too. The house, the home, was a big home but it was a separate thing from the village. But it was there and it was right across the beach from--we used to call it Waikiki Beach--but now they call it Kūhio [Beach]. Only in my days we call it Waikiki.

When the fleet was in it was all day at the luau. His specialty was just like today luau. So he made a regular luau then he put on a show. And I think his show was never in the day. His show was always in the evening and 'cause his daughter used to do the dance--dance the Pele dance. His daughter was the only girl who can do that dance and I seen her dance. Everything comes dark in the village and then they made a--something like a volcano and then she danced the Pele dance.

MK: Which daughter was that that did the Pele dance?

LJ: Leilani. She is still alive today. She doesn't do it anymore because a lot of the things are not there now. See everything's gone.

MK: What do you remember about Mr. Mossman?

LJ: Like how?

MK: What he looked like and what type of man . . .

LJ: He was a nice-looking man. He was fair. I remember his white hair. But he was also very strict. He was a strict man. If you know the Mossmans, the Mossmans that you see--that's all his 'ohana--similar to him--the looks that they have. The only thing at that time--he was (elderly). See, he had white hair, (but very good-looking man). He was fair. But strict man. (Because of our Hawaiian culture he knew a lot about the Hawaiian arts and the hula of old as well as the new for the tourist.)

Maybe too 'cause of this village that he had to run and all these things that he had to do--he had children--some of them were there and some of them were not there.

I was young at that time. My uncle would know more about them because he lived in there--practically lived there with them--"Pinhead," my uncle Punohu. He used to be the one that sat in there and weave all these hats too. I had a picture of him and I don't know what happened to that picture. I must have put it in one picture someplace. It's in the back of a picture but I don't know where I put it. It has him sitting in the hut. You would see what the village was like 'cause I have an old picture of him but I don't know where I put it.

MK: You mentioned that another man that you called "Uncle," lived with you folks. Who was he?

LJ: He was more like a seaman at that time. So I guess he got in with my family. Maybe at that time--I don't know--you know. Then my grandmother took him in like and he lived there ever since. I had grown up with him too. And my two brothers had grown up with him so he was very close. But we were also close to his family. We knew who his family was and I know his family too.

MK: Did his family live in Waikīkī too?

LJ: No, his family was from. . . . His mother, in her earlier years, lived in Puunui. Then from Liliha, Puunui they moved to Nanakuli and that's the Bungo family that lives in Nanakuli. That's his nephew so that's his family. His two brothers, he, himself are all gone. There's just the children out there but not the parents. But he was very close to myself and the two boys.

MK: Now, maybe we can go on to your father. What was your father's full name?

LJ: Delmas Lonoikauakini Joy.

MK: And what was the nickname that everybody knew him as?

LJ: "Tall."

MK: How come they called him that?

LJ: 'Cause he was a tall man. My dad was a big man. When growing up with that man, he was five times my size. He was really a big man. He was around about six [feet], three [inches] and a little over 2[00]--maybe 300-something pounds. But he was tall, he was big.

MK: And then what do you know about your father's family's history?

LJ: Well, he's got quite a background. His family's background is--his brother's are--some of his brothers are living today. His sisters are living today. He has a big family--really big family. I know of them. I know of them but I do not get into them but I know of them.

MK: And ethnically what was he--Hawaiian . . . ?

LJ: He was a--you would say in those days--now--Caucasian. He had all kind of mixture--mostly you would say English-Hawaiian, yeah. That's how we used that term--English. And we going to dig back to whether he was Indian or what, I don't know. But I assume he came from quite a well-known cultural family.

MK: And then, when you think back about your father, what do you remember most about your father?

LJ: Well, he wasn't an easy man. That's for sure. He was a very stern man. He was not an easy man. He wasn't a yes, yes man.

Everything we had to do, we had to do ourselves. But, for me as his daughter, my dad always said, "Yes,"--not every time but--that's part of growing up I think. And when he came in later years--he drifted away because--maybe I think because my grandmother actually was the foundation of our family--she had the say in that house 'cause it belonged to her.

It did not belong to nobody else but her. Whatever she says, goes. Because of the life that my mother had with my father. They were our next-door neighbors the stories they tell us. Maybe I'm letting a little privacy get out but this is only a little brief story of how my mother met him. She married him very young--had to 'cause in those days while they was bringing me up we had inflation, yeah. At that time we had that depression years so Mom was working to make money to take care of my grandma so she was working for the Joy family. That's how she met my father.

And then she married him because of this, you know. But outside of personal matters I don't condemn my father, he has a heart. He does. But he's very very hard. He's really hard to get to, you know. And then us kids--part of our growing up was really a little mix-up because my grandma and my mother wasn't in there. No can. As long as they were there, it was all right. And now that the both are not there, it's hard 'cause everybody else come in, you know. And being the oldest I never said anything. I don't do nothing. I just let them go. I don't bother.

MK: So your mother and grandmother were really the foundations?

LJ: They were the foundation of this family and of this house 'cause they try to run it as best that they can because of us--the kids and they tried--they were not people that had an education but they were people that knew what--my grandmother knew already ahead--what was going to happen. She knew but she was a person that--she was very old already--she had love for my father but Daddy didn't see it that way. She always said, "Yeah." But never had no thank you--that kind of stuff.

But outside of that, no, Dad was okay. But then he's--in other words--he's stingy--might as well come to the point. He was very tight. He didn't do things that he was supposed to do by the Golden Rule and then we drifted--that's why I drifted away from the house so. . . .

MK: Was kinda hard.

LJ: It was hard. When grandma died that took part of me too.

MK: So when were you born?

LJ: August 19, 1928.

MK: And where were you born?

LJ: Honolulu. But where exactly--that's what I wanted to find out but I--from what I saw in pictures, I was there--right on the sidewalk in our walk. My grandma showed me the picture of me. Baby. I say, "Where I was born?" So you know those days get midwife, yeah. So I figured they must have did it there. You know they must have did it there at the house 'cause my mother had--oh, the stories that I hear from the family, all. My grandaunt passed away, then we had her [funeral] there. My cousin's mother passed away--we had her. You know in the old days you had in a home--no funeral home. You know you had it there in the house.

My two sisters--I had two sisters prior to that and a brother. They all had everything there and my cousin that knows of this--she knows. She was telling me the story and I say, "See, that's why they love my mom." See my mom did all this. She did all the work.

MK: It all took place at the home?

LJ: Yeah. And she did all the work when the family came. You don't go to the sink or to the pots and pans. She brings it to you. She waits on you hand and feet. See that's how she was--not like today--you know come over once is pau. But those days, no. She was an obedient child to my grandmother--how the upbringing was. When family come she do all the cooking and everything and she'd wait on them--hand and feet.

MK: And this house that you folks all lived in--what did it look like?

LJ: Big house--upstairs and downstairs.

MK: Upstairs and downstairs? About how many rooms?

LJ: Upstairs we had--upstairs was more like today--the showcase house--showcase upstairs. Everything was nice upstairs--was always clean. And we had all these old-style linoleums. You know linoleums and we had these kind windows that you open them and you close them and you lock, old-fashioned windows, and with those old-fashioned blinds. Upstairs had two bedrooms, had a bath with tub, a toilet, space and everything. (We had pakū, mosquito nets.)

Downstairs was the shower and we had two stoves, one upstairs and one downstairs. We had two iceboxes, one upstairs and one downstairs. We had those things those days--exception of when Michael came along, then we had a washing machine--those old type, you roll 'em through the washers, yeah. We had that for him but we did all our washing outside--all in the back. And we hang clothes all in the back. You know those old styles, you pull the stick and pull a line up. That's the kind we had. And we had a big back yard.

MK: What was in your back yard those days?

LJ: We had plants. We had flowers. We had a lot of plumerias. My

grandmother planted a lot of waiawi tree, some laua'e, ti leaf, (Chinese mango trees, common mango, and a croton hedge). And we had a spot, dirt and we had a spot that had grass. My grandma had to have grass 'cause sometimes we go out and she lay--those days you used to lay out your white whites. You lay 'em out for dry. You put blueing in and lay 'em out. We had grassy spots. We had a big back yard in there. The back yard was big as this apartment. You put it all together right to the back of Lokelani Richards' back yard. That's where we were.

MK: And then I know that you mentioned your grandmother bought the house in 19 . . .

LJ: Sixteen [1916].

MK: Do you know anything about the history of how and why they bought over there?

LJ: I asked her one time--the choice. She liked Waikīkī. Actually she used to live Downtown. She used to live on Fort Street and she used to work at this Leillima Hotel across of the old Princess Theater. That's why she named me Leillima because my grandfather (Samuel Punohu Lelepali a.k.a. Samuel Punohu) used to work Hawaiian Electric--Downtown. He used to work Hawaiian Electric so both of them used to be like managers of the place.

They took care of the place and if people move out she cleans it and then she rent 'em out and then whatever. She took care and I think after that when my grandfather died--or before he died I think they bought this place in Waikīkī. At that time I think it was very cheap. She told me it either was [\$]800 or [\$]500--I forget--was around that area--never [\$]1000 though--was in that area she bought this place in 1916.

Lili'u [Queen Lili'uokalani] was still alive. She probably--that's what I think--went to Lili'u herself. Either that or to whoever--she probably had some kind--something over there that made her go out to Waikīkī and buy this particular place. The Ioela Kiakahis, the Bishaws and our place and the next door was the Joy family. We were all close. Kiakahi was her brother.

MK: Kiakahi was . . .

LJ: My granduncle (Ioela Kiakahi) which was her brother and then next door was the Bishaws. I think the Bishaw's wife was sort of relation to my grandma. That's what she told me--and then us and then the Joys. She knew we were related some way in here. That's why (these families) bought this place (and lived close by).

MK: So you have the Kiakahis, the Bishaws, Punohus and Joys.

LJ: And the Joy family was living next door. But then the Joy family sold the property out. They sold the property out and somebody

bought the house and I think I know where the house stay up in Puowaina Drive if I still remember how the house look like. I think that's where the house went to. Somebody bought the house and put 'em up there and this Russian lady bought the place next door. Mrs. Yenkov was her name. She bought this place right next. She built this apartment which is still standing today. That apartment was hers. And then the Bishaws were the first one to sell. Because Mr. (Clevis) Bishaw himself passed away so his daughter sold the place.

MK: About when was that?

LJ: Oh, when did he pass away? Nineteen something, can't remember, gotta be (before) the war [World War II].

MK: You mentioned some of your neighbors like--you had the Punohus and then you had the Joys, right? Tell me about the Joy family--who lived there and what they did.

LJ: Was my father. Was his father and his brothers and sisters live in that house, but Dad is the oldest. My father's the oldest.

MK: What did your father's father do for a living?

LJ: My grandfather, I think he was retired at that time. From what I understand he was a baseball player. My grandfather's name was Barney Joy. And after he sold this place I think he bought a place in Diamond Head. Then I went to the house. If I'm not mistaken that's the house by the park. As I remember the park I remember looking over the Kapi'olani Park. My Dad and Mama took me up there into his house. I know how he looked like. He was a big man too. My grandfather, my father's father. He was a big man too. He wasn't a small man.

MK: And then in the Joy family, another name that comes up besides your father is "Kaiser" Joy. Who was "Kaiser" Joy?

LJ: His brother. My father's brother.

MK: And did you have any connection with him?

LJ: I know who they are. I talk to them and say hello to them but we don't get together as family. But if I see them I talk to them. My father never did bother his family too much. He was more like a person alone. He was always--he don't bother. They come to his house. If they don't come there he don't go to their house. He was that kind of man. He doesn't wanna go there and that's why he stay home. I don't know what his intention but maybe he had good intentions, I don't know. But he never bothered.

MK: On the other side of you, you had the Bishaws. What kind of people were the Bishaws?

LJ: Nice. They were good people. Bishaw was the grandfather and these girls that I were raised with were the Peters girls. Their mother was a Bishaw girl which was their grandfather's [daughter]. The house that they lived in was the mother's father Bishaw. Clevis [Bishaw] was the old man. That's their grandpa so they lived in the house with him. These three girls lived in the house with him because their father was not there and she married a Peters. And then she remarried.

So when the mother remarried she lived in Liliha and the girls live on that property. Then they got married. They lived there with their husbands and part of raising up their children until they went out. When the mother sold the place they went out look for their own.

MK: And then next to the Bishaws were the Kiakahis.

LJ: My grandpa's name was Ioela Kiakahi. But anyway everybody know him by "Cannonball." His wife was Abigail and she had a daughter by the name of Edith. Edith (Kiakahi) married a DeMatta and that's the children that we had grown up with--DeMatta. The children's name was all DeMatta that I had grown up with.

MK: And was the Kiakahi family the one that worked for the Queen?

LJ: No.

MK: Which family was that in the area that served . . .

LJ: Kanekoa. George Kanekoa. George Kanekoa's wife did. She was the lady-in-waiting for Lili'u and she was known as "Tutu Hea." His brother, I know him as "King," was Kanekoa's younger brother. He was the fisherman for Lili'u and when she used to come to Waikīkī he was the one went out, got the kala. He was the one to get the kala out in Waikīkī. He was a fisherman. I remember that and I remember the house and I remember next to the house they had a church.

This little church belonged to Kawaiaha'o. My grandfather's wife, Abigail--they took care of this church. They used to come across and clean the yard, sweep up inside--make sure the church was clean. It was a beautiful little church. I used to go inside the church and I used to play in the churchyard. It was always clean. They took good care of the church. Kanekoa lived next to that.

MK: Who actually was the minister at that church?

LJ: I guess, when they had, probably from the church they send--whoever. They never did have [regular services]--special services only I think. It wasn't a church that you go every Sunday. It was something when they have a special occasion I think--maybe like Lili'u's birthday or something--maybe they had something over there.

My grandmother and her daughter Edith used to go over to the church and get 'em ready for whoever's coming. At that time I was not a churchgoer like that. I used to go with my grandma. Then I went to Kawaiaha'o too. After Ho'omana Na'auao, I went to Kawaiaha'o [and] I go to the church where I'm at now. So my grandmother took me to this church (Ka Makua Mau Loa Church) when she was alive in Kalihi.

MK: And then this church that you're talking about in Waikīkī, on what street was that?

LJ: 'Ōhua [Avenue].

MK: On 'Ōhua?

LJ: Yeah. Kanekoa lived on the corner of 'Ōhua and Kūhiō [Avenues]--right on the corner where the Prince Kūhiō Hotel is now. That's where his house was. Louise Akeo was there--Kanekoa, Louise Akeo and Nakamuras. But Kanekoa had a big house. The Queen gave his wife a big house to live in. I used to climb the plum tree at Kanekoa's house. He had a nice plum tree. I used to climb that plum tree--go eat plums--so the church. . . . (Chuckles)

If I can still remember some of the people that I--some well-known kama'aina people--live on 'Ōhua but I'm trying to think of their names. It's been so long.

MK: When you were a small kid, what did you and the other small kids do for play in the neighborhood?

LJ: Oh, you'd be surprised. We made our own skateboards. We rode skates and we built stilts. We walked stilts, played baseball on the road 'cause never had parks so we played on the road, baseball. Sky inning, play baseball. And we rode bikes and we played marbles. We played--what you call that?--ring and we played tops, you know tops. And we played yoyos. We had that and we played bean bags and we jumped rope.

MK: Who were your playmates?

LJ: The Bishaw girls. The Peters girls rather. They were my playmates until her cousins and whatever comes so we played. We all played. It's hard to remember. Once in a while I used to go behind and play with--if we get in the back Waikīkī School--go look the Ewalikos, whoever otherwise, you know. They were always busy.

See like me, I was only me--only me, yeah. So I had to go look for what little friends you can and we play. My cousins--I was also raised with three of my cousins in the house I forgot to mention. They came later years though. That one was--today she's Mrs. Hanahano. Her name was Rachel and her brother's name was Daniel and her sister's name was Alice. These three were my grandmother's nieces. They were her sister's children. They were raised by her

so I had them playmates and plus the Peters girls.

Rachel--we call her Lahela. She was the oldest. She was older than us. So normally she did whatever she can do until she got married. Then she moved out of the house and she went on her own. So Daniel and Alice were left back and Daniel married and he went to live Hilo and then Alice got married. I forgot what year. And she moved to the Mainland. She's been up there--New Hampshire.

MK: So when you were a small kid you played with yoyos, marbles--played with the girls around there, how about on the ocean side, the beach side, what did you do?

LJ: Swim. Surf. Everything you can think of I did, as long as we (were) in the water.

MK: And where did you learn how to swim?

LJ: My grandmother. She took me in the water when I about--1934 I used to swim and she used to hold me in that water where Lili'u's beach home was and they had a little pond over there so she'd take me over there and let me swim. I go till I learn how to swim and I swim by myself. I been doing it. Then I been going beach every day. She gotta look for me. I'm in the water. I been in the--and it's like I said. You never could see me. I was so black. You only see my teeth. (Chuckles) That's how black I was. Only my teeth 'cause I'm always in the water and used to get earaches like crazy, salt go in the ear, eh. Oh, I used to have earaches because, swim, swim, swim, swim--every time big water, I'm swimming.

I'm out there with a little surfboard--call it paipo in those days. We just use paipo boards. We never did any bodysurfing. Everything was boards. We used boards those days. I knew how to use a hollow board and I knew how to use a balsa board and I had a paipo board, a small board. I used that. All in the ocean--all outside--all of that--you name it--from Halekulani all the ways to Castle's, I used to swim but you gotta--the water in Waikiki had a lot of eels. (Chuckles)

And in those days you don't have the wall you have now--all stones--lot of stones. You gotta watch out--plenty stones, yeah. Every time you step in the water you gotta watch how you step in the water but that was me. I used to love the ocean. I used to swim, swim, swim, swim. I never had this color hair. I used to have red, red, red hair plus too much swim, yeah--not black hair. And I was very thin. I was only ninety-nine pounds. Everything you put on me fell down anyway. I can say something about Waikiki though--was beautiful in those days.

MK: How about on the Kapi'olani Park side--did you ever hang around on that side for fun?

LJ: Well, I used to go listen to the Royal Hawaiian Band on Sundays. I used to walk and I used to walk to the zoo and walk to the park. But as far as those days we had curfew--eight o'clock you go home. Nobody stays on the street 'cause in those days those streams where they are old, right, and it's dark. Let me tell you. With the ponds that they had over there at that time, the old Shell--they had ponds over there those days--was ponds--it's not there [now].

It's dark, very dark. With the homes on the street too, they all old plus they had--Chris Holmes was there at that time. He had his home there before the Queen's Surf, yeah. You don't walk down them streets nighttime. You go home. You have no business on that street and they pick you up. The policemen see you on the street they pick you up. There's no such thing as "Excuse I don't know,"--eight o'clock you home, right. It was very strict.

MK: Who was the policeman in that area, you remember?

LJ: Oh, no. They had a lot of old cops then, I don't think they around today. I remember one cop but I can't think of his name. He was one stinker anyway--can't think of his name. I know he was tall--can't think of his name but, some of the old-timers--if I see the name, then I know.

MK: And then you know the older kids, what did the older kids do for fun in that area?

LJ: They never got into trouble. No way, maybe they had places to go but they always, always home. They had girlfriends. Either you go to their house or they come to your house and that's it. You go home. You catch the last bus and you go home. Boys, you know, I talking about the boys. There was never somebody stay out late at night.

MK: And in those days what did the mothers do together if they wanted to go socialize like what did your mother do with the other ladies in the neighborhood?

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MK: Okay, you were saying that your mother was close to the Bishaw girls.

LJ: Katherine and Hilda. Katherine was a Mrs. Yim at that time and Hilda was a Mrs. Kaeo. These three used to go out together--my mom and them. They used to go--in those days they had dances at one school auditorium or. . . . And down the road they had a little place where they can go dance in those days. They had a--not very late--not late, late, late, like two or three o'clock or

whatever--around the area 'cause Mrs. Yim drives. She has a car and they all used to go out weekends.

Other than that they don't go out. They stay home. My mom stays home with my grandma and then Mrs. Kaeo stays home too. Mrs. Yim used to work for Waimano Home, that's why. She used to cook up in the school up in Waimano. Hilda was a housewife and my mom was a housewife.

MK: How about the fathers, any time they would get together with men folks in the area?

LJ: No. See Dad--he worked Pearl Harbor so he's strictly federal worker. They go out with the gang down there. You see when they had paydays on maybe Fridays, they shoot straight Downtown Honolulu and whatever--just come home, let my mom know. Otherwise pick my mom up or something like that. Otherwise that's all he does and he does go out--he's with these workingmen or--he drinks. So does my mom. My mom them two never go too much together.

Because when I was young my grandmother had a place in Nanākuli--a homestead. So weekends they used to split me apart. One weekend I stayed with my mom and one weekend I go with her. So my mother missed me and I gotta come home. Then my grandma missed me and I gotta go back down there. I was going back and forth to Nanākuli. (Chuckles) It was hectic and if they go out they can't leave me home by myself so I gotta go with my grandma. Somebody gotta, cousin's gotta come in the house stay and wait for them when they go out and I'm home. (Chuckles) And I rode the buses to Nanākuli and I rode the train to Nanākuli with my grandma. So I saw some goodies.

MK: Long distance, yeah, those days.

LJ: Yeah, but the train was a good ride though. I loved the train ride. I loved the train going down alongside--going Nanākuli and I liked the streetcars 'cause I used to look at the conductors, that's why. I had fun. Small as I am I thinking that's gonna last forever but you never know.

You know progress, yeah--until the trolleys came in and I rode the trolleys a lot. I went to school on the trolleys--went to town on the trolleys. My grandma used to take me movies every weekend with her. I forgot that. Used to go--if Hawai'i Theater had a good movie--I'm going show with my grandma. She takes me to the movie. My mom don't go, just my grandma. She takes me to the movie. It was always Hawai'i Theater or Princess Theater--Hawai'i, Princess or King, yeah. We used to go to Hawai'i mostly.

MK: In the old days in Waikīkī, when did people have parties or luaus and things?

LJ: Special occasions--birthdays, weddings. More, when we used to have

baby parties is the best. Anybody go to one baby party. As long as you give money for the baby, you're welcome to the party. And there was always food and there was always drinks. In those days--old-style kind. Only certain kind liquor they have in those days--they don't have the kind liquor they have today--all these mixed drinks and whatever.

Everything they did those days was all straight--all straight booze, yeah. They had a lot of food like we eat today, kālua pig, but they had all what you can think of--the various raw food--that hard to get today. They had 'em those days.

MK: Like what?

LJ: Wana for one and then ake you no see too much on the table. They had ake. They had kulolo. They had raw squid. They had cooked squid. They had the black crab, a'amas. They had those and they had. . . . Before, those days, they no cook chicken like today. Before in those days they used to cook chicken with tomato sauce. That's different kind you cook with the tomato sauce before. Today they just cook with the eggs and throw in a little. . . . Before they cook with tomato sauce but they don't use it today--'cause you gotta eat 'em sour, yeah.

So they had those in those days--long rice. That wasn't too much--it was a specialty. Then they had lomi salmon. Then they had your aku. You had your raw fish, yeah. And they had dry fish and they had da kine red 'opaes that come from Hilo. You know that red 'opae that they cook. They had that and that, today, you don't see it. But those days we had all that. That's a lot for one dish--one luau. It's a lot of portion. You know some people eat this but those days, they no waste food, you know. They eat all their food. Because that was the delicacy in those days. Well, you don't go out eat in one Hawaiian restaurant--today. You eat home, yeah.

So that was when you of course you have your Hawaiian salt and, of course, you would have your onions and chili pepper. They had the two kind of onions on the table, the green and the white and plus you have your salt and your chili pepper.

MK: And then when you had your baby parties in Waikīkī had entertainment and everything?

LJ: Yeah. Yeah, we go look for some kind of entertainment in those days--entertainment field wasn't like now. But the family--the family house is the way they entertained their guests. They have this kind back yard entertainment like you say. Everybody in the house knew how to pick up one instrument. And then they jam for weeks. You see they party for one week. You still see them drinking--one week so you know.

MK: And then you know like with the baby parties--did you folks go to

like Waikīkī Beach and that area to go look for limu or anything?

LJ: Yeah, in a way--sort of a way. They had limu over there and then maybe some families stay in Nanākuli or maybe somebody coming from--family from island--they bring something and then 'opihis you can find. I don't know about making 'opihis [but] down pass Hanauma --used to go there and make 'opihi, yeah. And then wana I know had Hale'iwa and wana had over there too Sandy Beach. In those days you can go but not today, you know.

MK: Kinda hard.

LJ: Today, you no pick 'opihis, you buy, right. 'Cause--dangerous, right. But in those days if you knew how, it was not dangerous 'cause the ones who picked the 'opihi knew and respected the sea. They respected the ocean. They knew how. You know you respect the ocean--you take. But you respect the ocean. Today no more respect. Today they take all. They forget give back, yeah. So they take. The ocean take, but those days, no, they knew how. They made enough and I'm telling you they made by the gallons--gallons.

You no need worry about eating 'opihi and all the ripe, the yellow kind, the one fat, not the dark kind, night 'opihi. The yellow is the rich 'opihi yeah. So that was good and you know I never eat those delicacies in those days. I only ate certain kind fish. My mother had to be the one to make it. Otherwise I don't eat.

MK: Earlier you mentioned in those days people don't go out to eat Hawaiian food, right. But then in Waikiki there was a famous Hawaiian place, yeah, called Unique [Lunch Room].

LJ: Yeah, Unique.

MK: What do you remember about Unique?

LJ: Very good. The food was excellent. They made--those days we eat pipi kaula but not the way they make pipi kaula, yeah. He was noted for his pipi kaula. He was noted for his--lomi salmon was good and he never made kalua pig--can't remember. And his laulau and that's where I ate banana pie and he made his custard pie and aku you know his lomi. They were good. They were Japanese people that was very very clean 'cause I go in the kitchen. I used to go in the kitchen--look, yeah. And they were very clean. They know who I was. Once in a while we--you see I'm not a eater but I used to go with my family and my friend if I may. You like stay--go home. You like come eat with him--go keep him company.

Of course some guys maybe live Kalihi or someplace. And they 'ono, eh. They like eat there. So I go with them. So I try 'cause I told 'em I'm not used to eating in restaurants. He tell me why. I say 'cause I'll get my own--the reason why we don't eat out I'll tell you. Had my own spoon, my own plate and my own bowl. See if

I go in I like go get my spoon and my plate and my bowl--go eat my own. I no like eat from the restaurant.

(Laughter)

LJ: I don't know what you say to that but I was raised that way. I had my own things to eat from. Maybe that's why so I had hard time eat in a restaurant. Really I no care if they give me steaks. I refuse to eat. See I was that type of person. But you give me peanuts or something I'll eat it 'cause--can, eh. You give me food they just cook I no like. I had hard time with it. You know my friends used to get upset 'cause I no like eat. Maybe that's why I stayed ninety-nine pounds.

MK: And then in those days, you have Unique Cafe. What other business . . .

LJ: Blue Ocean. Blue Ocean Inn.

MK: What kind of place was Blue Ocean?

LJ: It was American food. They served American food and they had a bar, a lounge in there. In those days you don't call it cocktail lounge. You call it a bar or a tavern. Now they call it lounge 'cause you know sounds more nice. But not those days--and you know you cannot go in there unless you with an adult. You see--eighteen [years old]--you cannot go, you know. You have to be twenty-one to go in a bar.

So we had to be escorted by my--even if we go and eat, the restaurant one side and the bar is one side. So we go and eat, right. So I gotta go in with somebody who's older. Otherwise they don't let you in. See they was good about that--save a lot of wrecks and a lot of trouble. Young kids don't go in.

That's how strict it was in those days. You cannot go in. You have to be--don't even take a baby in. Maybe you go in afternoon. They take a baby in--have to be with the parent 'cause you cannot help sometime, yeah--afternoon but not late at night. Afternoon you can go in. In those days the bars no open till twelve anyway, right. Those days--Sundays the bar no open till twelve o'clock (noon). You gotta wait till after twelve.

MK: And in those days what other stores were up there?

LJ: Aoki. We had Aoki Store and we had a barbershop next to Aoki Store. I don't remember the name. Then Blue Ocean Inn was next to that and next to that was cleaners. I forgot her name and then next to that was a little yardage place and then next to that was the drugstore that Unique Lunch Room's daughter [Mrs. Lillian Sakamoto] ran--with the husband. And then had Unique and then had one more barbershop. Then they had the laundry. Then Ibaraki was

on the corner of Paoakalani and Kalākaua. Ibaraki Store one corner, Aoki Store one corner.

So if you get mad at Aoki, you go to Ibaraki--if you get mad at Ibaraki you go to Aoki. (Chuckles) But Aoki was a bigger store. He was a bigger store. Ibaraki was just a good medium-sized store but I know the boys--Aoki Store I knew too. I knew the old folks but the boy was young that time. I know the daughters who are older now. I think they run Aoki, the mini Aoki [Store], yeah. Once in a while I go over there--stop--see how they are.

MK: Which store did you go to?

LJ: Ibaraki. But Aoki had more meats I think. They had more meats--depend on what we like eat. And in those days you can charge, yeah. You just sign the receipt, right. You no need charge card like today. All you got--a receipt and you go home. But at Ibaraki--this Alae [Bungo] that live with us--he had a charge account there 'cause he worked Pearl Harbor. He worked Pearl. He was a painter.

He was there during the war. So he used to be our grocery man. He goes to the store and buys stuffs and he comes home--cook. He was a good cook. He taught us how to eat--I no eat hamburgers. He taught us how to eat hamburgers and he made salads. He taught us all that because he worked Pearl, eh. So they had luncheon and all the kind so I never used to care for too much for that kind food. And I no drink milk and I don't drink soda either. As I grow older I learn how to drink soda.

MK: In those days did peddlers come?

LJ: Yeah.

MK: What kind peddlers used to come?

LJ: On the wagon. We had a peddler. He used to come by Nakamura's house--park and my mom used to run across the street--buy maybe I forgot an onion and then she buy the onions 'cause sometimes the stores close early, see. I forget they used to close early. I forget what time--maybe five o'clock. They never used to close when dark. So if they close and I think Sundays they close. I think. You never had too much stores open on Sundays. Everybody no work and not too much restaurants open too--as far as I can remember anyway.

So the peddlers used to come around so Mom used to buy. Maybe she forgot this onion or maybe she forgot ginger or maybe she--he had every little thing that you can think of. He had all the goodies that you like--all kind candies. He had all kind crack seeds and everything on that wagon. Yeah. In those days you know how cheap was, eh. You go there with only one quarter you buy the whole wagon.

MK: And that was a Japanese family?

LJ: Yeah, I still remember him and I can't--I get his picture in my mind but--I try to think of his name but it's so long. He was a Japanese man. He had one of those long, long wagons--a long little wagon and everything. All they do go pick--he had anything you can think of like pork tofu. He had the tofu. He had the sushi too and all that kind he had in case. Nakamuras, eh, the Japanese over there too they all come outside.

MK: So he had a truck or what?

LJ: Yeah, truck. It was a truck type but old-style kind truck and then he convert it into one little shed like that and then he have all in glasses, yeah--all his things, all in glasses, all the canned goods stacked up. All you need do is just grab what you like and. . . . They just fold over one little thing and make 'em tight and he's on his way to the next corner or whatever and he used to sell.

MK: And he used to park by the Nakamuras?

LJ: Yeah. Right on the corner. All everybody in the neighborhood run outside buy. They see him--they all take off. They come. They like buy something, eh. And you never used to get robbed and he used to carry a lot of money with him. He bring up all his cash. We don't know what is that those days. He bring up plenty cash. We no think, yeah, those days you don't think. I don't care what people say. Your mind don't think. He come--he take out his money. You take your candy or whatever--go. You just go over here. Went on my way playing, yeah. Never used to think.

MK: You know for today I'm gonna end over here then, okay.

LJ: Okay.

MK: Then we'll continue next time so thank you for today, yeah.

END OF INTERVIEW

1954

Tape No. 13-85-2-86

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Leiilima Joy (LJ)

May 14, 1986

Waimalu, O'ahu

BY: Michi Kodama-Nishimoto (MK)

MK: This is an interview with Leiilima Joy at her home in Waimalu, 'Aiea, on O'ahu, on May 14, 1986. The interviewer is Michi Kodama-Nishimoto.

Okay, this morning we're talking about your uncle, Sam Punohu Jr. Can you tell me again what he used to do at the Mossman [Lalani] Village?

LJ: Well, he used to be the tree climber and he used to be the one that did the---they used to entertain and they used to have a Pele dance by Mossman's daughter which is Leilani and my uncle which is Sam Punohu Jr.--they call him, "Pinhead." Uncle used to be the one that did the fire. What I mean by that--he was the one that threw the kerosene, the kerosene and made the fire, while she dances this Pele dance.

At one time he used to use the coconut shell to do it--to throw the kerosene into this fire that made the thing go up--looks like a volcano. Then it didn't go along too good. The fire used to backfire and Uncle thought maybe if he use his mouth it would be better. So what he did--he put a portion of this kerosene in his mouth and he blew it on the fire which made it a gigantic fire. It really looked like a volcano. I heard dancing up there and he did that work. As far as tree climbing he was the tree climber there.

MK: And like how long did he do this for the Mossman Village?

LJ: Right offhand I don't remember how long. As far as I can remember Uncle did it every time they had a luau show. He was the man that did it until the show pau--which I don't know--in later years maybe prior to wartime, [World War II] I think they did have a little show but not that much 'cause then you couldn't use light 'cause was blackout. So they pau at that time.

I think that's when the show ceased. And then prior to that they got rid of the village and they started to build these apartments. See, Lalani Village was turned into these little apartment

buildings that he rented out to people and they did away with the village as far as the show, everything was pau. Probably was war-time.

MK: Would you remember anybody who rented from the Mossmans when they built the apartments instead?

LJ: Oh, they had all kinds of people rented from the Mossmans. The Kumukoa family was there and Mossman's sons was there and the Mossman family was there. Leilani [Mossman's daughter] was there also and we had. . . . I can't think of their name now but had quite a few families. I think what her name--Leilani Alama [i.e., Leinaala Kalama Heine] which is a hula teacher today. Her mother lived there. She rented.

They didn't look like apartments--how we get today--these kind of apartments. They were built in like--how would you say it--duplex, yeah. Maybe duplex or something. They were just an apartment next door. You had a neighbor. They were sort of like that type. It wasn't apartment building like this. And as far as I can remember, that's how it was.

MK: And as a young girl did you go over there . . .

LJ: Yes.

MK: . . . and play around with them?

LJ: Yes. I had a lot of friends who were going to school that were living there and I had a lot of friends that I'd grown up with. I used to pass Lalani Village all the time 'cause I used to go to the stores, Ibaraki and Aoki Stores so I used to pass there all the time.

MK: And then when you were a little kid what did you go to Ibaraki and Aoki for?

LJ: Groceries. Groceries and maybe. . . . You know, little things that kids buy--candies, like that from Aoki and Ibaraki Stores.

MK: And how did this system work back then? If you didn't have cash on you, how did they do it?

LJ: They did have charge accounts. In the old days you sign the receipt book, but we didn't do that. My family had never done that but this man [Alae Bungo] that we call uncle, that live with us, he did that 'cause he was single but he worked at Pearl Harbor so he was more like a cook. He was more like--when he wanted something--just go to the store, come home, cook you know, little odds and ends. So Pearl Harbor when they got paid every week he paid his bill. Those days you can carry cash as much as you like and never get scared somebody gonna crack your head like today.

In those days you can but in those days five-dollar bill was a lot of money. You only need that much in your pocket and you feel rich, right. When I was a kid I had a quarter. I was satisfied so we didn't have that much and I never used to eat that much--junks anyway.

MK: And then you mentioned you went to school, so what school did you go to?

LJ: I went to Waikiki School. Waikiki Elementary School, the old Waikiki Elementary.

MK: And where was that, that old Waikiki Elementary?

LJ: On Kūhiō [Avenue].

MK: And what did it look like?

LJ: A school.

(Laughter)

LJ: The school that you. . . . The buildings that---regular lumber buildings, not anything fancy. But we had bungalows like, yeah. In those days maybe that's what you would call it, bungalow buildings. But they were nice. To me there was a classroom and then we had regular desk and the regular seats that you use in the classroom, not like today, though. Everybody had a little single one and you sit at a desk with everybody.

MK: And then you were telling me you remembered all your teachers from that time?

LJ: Well, at that time when I went to Waikiki School when I was a first-grader my principal at that time was Mrs. [Mabel] King. Then her daughter was my first-grade teacher. That time when I went to Waikiki School I think the principal of that school, Waikiki School, was going to retire.

She was old but her daughter was not. And I stayed in her class and then Mrs. Ruth Rankin became our principal at Waikiki School. Now I'm trying to think who was my second-grade teacher--second grade, third grade--all I can remember is my teacher's name. There was a Mrs. Notley, Mrs. Rodenhurst, Mrs. Lam, Mrs. Ching, and Mrs. Pomeroy and Mrs. Kaawakauo. (Also, Mrs. Beeman, Mrs. Holt, Mrs. Perry, and Mrs. Hood.) They were the teachers at Waikiki School at that time.

MK: What do you remember most about any of these teachers?

LJ: They were all right. I had good teachers. Mrs. [Emma] Kaawakauo--I gotta give her credit, though. She was the teacher that taught the song, "Paoakalani." We were the first children at

the elementary school that ever went down to KGU and sang this particular song on the air (for the actor, Frank Morgan). He was there when we had to sing this song, "Paoakalani." This is a song that she taught us to sing and that's the first time I ever heard "Paoakalani"--was from this particular teacher, Mrs. Emma Kaawakaou so I've learned a lot from these teachers. They were strict but they were good. (Also, before we sat down to begin our class day, Mrs. Pomeroy always had us sing a song.)

MK: How did they discipline kids back then?

LJ: Well, as far as discipline, maybe our kids in those days did not know of how to do rotten things anyway. Excuse me for using that kind of word. Because my grandmother brought me up very wise and full of wisdom. I assumed the other kids that I had gone to school with, likewise were spoiled, but we all grew up in the same level. See, what you learn I learn too.

When I went to first grade they make you go up to the blackboard and write ABC or what you can write and I used to sit down and cry because I never used to like--didn't wanna go up to the board and write my name. But when I was going to elementary I had the best penmanship in class. As far as penmanship I had penmanship, spelling. Spelling was one of my best subjects.

They taught us a lot of arithmetic, addition, subtraction, division. They did not teach us fractions when we was going to elementary. Addition and subtraction was the most thing they wanted us to learn. I guess in those days addition was very important and then we did a lot of history and we did a lot of reading.

MK: How about Hawaiian history those days?

LJ: They didn't bring up too much Hawaiian. Specific Hawaiian, no. We learned more in history and geography and then that was the most I can remember about elementary. There was more concern about what you can do, the student themselves, the kids in those days and those days was really good. We had a period when we had a rest period. You bring your mat to school and you sleep.

MK: All through the grades, though?

LJ: Yeah. All through we had a rest period. There was never where you only play, play, play, play and no rest. They had a chance for the kids, had a time to rest and you sleep in the class. You bring your own mat and you bring your shades and you sleep, right. And then if you oversleep they let you sleep. The teacher don't wake you up. Then you knew class must be going on and you know sometime you get up and they never scolded you. They didn't get up and bawl you out or anything. They just put your things away and they sit down and continue what they're doing. Maybe you had a reading session. So you sit in and each one had to stand up and read

before the class. They give you a book and you read.

MK: How did you do in that?

LJ: Oh, I think I did all right. I can't remember but some of the words are not like what you use today. That I have to say. They had some big words but not like today--you know the books you have. Today to my thinking today's teaching is very puzzling for a young child to go to school--more advanced. In our days they took their time to get you to that so you can get into it. Today no, they rush you into things. You gotta. In our days they didn't tell you you have to. They wanted you to learn.

The teachers were always there when we made an error and they were always there to correct you. They was never there sitting on their butts or something and telling no. They were always there. You did something wrong. They call you to the desk and you did this, you did this. Then you correct yourself. And then we had a big recess. All the whole school went outside. We all played and my favorite game was baseball.

MK: Where did you folks play baseball?

LJ: Right in the school. There was a place that you can hit sky inning or hit the ball and all the fifth graders, sixth. The little ones had their little place they'd run. We didn't have swings like you have today. We didn't have sliding boards like you have today. The kids all had something to do, though. They had a little stuff to play with.

I cannot remember but we had the little things to do--keep you out of mischief and we never played dirt though. We never went outside play dirt. That we never did. Then you had time to go to the bathroom and all that stuff.

MK: How about lunch? Those days where did you folks . . .

LJ: Cafeteria.

MK: . . . get lunch from?

LJ: Cafeteria. They cook our lunches. And then in those days very few ate lunches in school. A lot of kids brought lunch. Because a lot of kids did not have that kind of money. In those days I don't know what is welfare. We don't know what welfare---you go to welfare and go get money. We don't know what is that. Honest. That's the truth. You knew welfare after the war. Everybody got spoiled, right.

My parents never borrowed money, never nothing. So went to school and I was not an eater anyway. I was a person that never ate out. I always ate home. I was the hardest kid to eat any place. So I take one sandwich and maybe we had milk in the morning. We had the

regular milk in the bottles. And taste good the milk. You drink milk and you're full. Or maybe we took an orange or we took an apple like that.

MK: And so those days was there a delivery man who came with the milk?

LJ: The delivery man used to come to the house, right. In those days you had a delivery man. If you wanted milk you ordered, they bring to the house. Instead of you going to the store they bring it to the house, fresh milk, yeah.

MK: And like around the school and the neighborhood, were there--nowadays we have lunch wagons, right that sell to the kids--what was there those days?

LJ: No more. You never used to see the kids leave the grounds unless necessary. They could step out of the grounds but not unless they have to go or something. And we had an art class too. I forgot about that. You go in one room and they put you with an apron and they just let you paint whatever you wanna paint. They had paint brushes and you just paint away what you wanna paint. They all wanna see what you are thinking, yeah. So mine was either the moon, the stars, or one house or one grass. That's all I used to paint is that, was the easiest, yeah. That's elementary now I'm talking about.

MK: And then like nowadays we have May Day celebrations . . .

LJ: Was beautiful . . .

MK: . . . Christmas, how about at Waikiki?

LJ: May Day program, we always had the Maypole. Kids dance around the Maypole. We all went to school with leis. No papers, all flowers. No imitations, all real. We did our thing in those days. Was nice. They had a little something. Everybody went with a Hawaiian print or something. I think I still can remember what I used to wear, I forget. In those days you cannot go to school with pants, shorts, slacks. You going wear dress, no shorts. I no kid you, you had to go school with dress.

MK: How about shoes those days?

LJ: Shoes. Maybe some couldn't afford shoes and we don't know what is slippers. Barefeet. Barefoot. See that's why they say we were healthy 'cause we used to go to school no more shoes, no more slipper. No more nothing, never used to come home with nail in the feet or cut or anything but they---I know there was something about those days. I don't know what it is but. You always went home, just wash your feet, check your feet clean or what, go home maybe sleep at home or something. But I always ran around barefooted. And if you use old-style, the old tennis shoes--you know those days, that's all. I never used to use these kind of slippers that

they wear today. It's the other kind slippers we used to wear before.

MK: And then after Waikīkī Elementary where did you go?

LJ: Washington Intermediate School.

MK: Then how did you go to Washington, streetcar or somebody drove you. . . .

LJ: Trolley. I caught the trolley bus to school. I went to school on the trolley and I came home on the trolley. I graduated from Washington [Intermediate School] though. I loved that school. I really loved that school.

MK: What did you like about it so much?

LJ: Well, I liked the teachers and I liked the students that I grew up with. Mostly I had made friends with girls that were raised up in the Salvation Army Home and I made friends with some of them. They used to come down in the morning. The buses bring them down from Wai'oli to come to school. Then the bus pick them up, take them home. So I made a little friends there, you know.

And then a lot of them came from. . . . Those days you didn't have to live in the area to go to the schools. You go to the school that you want to go. So they were in Kaka'ako district out in that--the area where the school is, Washington. All in that Pi'ikoi area, 'Ālewa, you know, Papakōlea. They all came to Washington Intermediate.

Some of them did not go to Lincoln 'cause Lincoln used to be down I think by Thomas Square if I'm not mistaken. Lincoln School used to be there. And then intermediate, Robert Louis Stevenson [School], I think, where they had already moved up to where they are now. A lot of them used to come down to our school. So I made all kinds of friends, all kinds of people that are up there today and I'm still here but they all up there. I'm glad for them.

A lot of my schoolmates went in the war. Some of them I have lost and some of them that were my classmates have gone and then some of them made it to Kamehameha. Some of them went to Kamehameha School like, Melvin Prestige was one of my classmates. He was in "Hawai'i Five-0," I think. Not "Hawai'i Five-0." The other Hawaiian show before. The one used to come on TV. "Hawaiian Eye," yeah.

MK: "Hawaiian Eye."

LJ: He was on that, Prestige. He was my classmate and then I had a good teacher too. My teacher was Fred Cruz which was lost in that 1946 tidal wave in Laupāhoehoe. He was a teacher there that he went out--the wave took him with the kids in Laupā[hoehoe]. . . . Fred Cruz was my arts and crafts teacher. The kind they teach you

leather work. Fred Cruz was one of my teachers in Washington Intermediate at that time.

MK: Any other teachers that you really remember well?

LJ: Oh. . . . Shucks. I'm trying to think of their names. Han. Mr. Han was one of my teachers too. He was my favorite teacher. Mr. Han and we also had Mrs. Highland. I forgot her first name. Highland. Was it Highland? I kinda forgot. I gotta go look in my book.

MK: What did Mr. Han teach?

LJ: I think he was a, let me see, seven, eight. I think he was a ninth grade teacher. I'm not too sure, around in that area. Forgot already. Mr. Han. He's well known, Mr. Han, H-A-N.

MK: And how about activities at Washington?

LJ: Oh. Oh. And my P.E. [Physical Education] teacher was, Mrs. Kahanamoku was my teacher. Anna Kahanamoku. She was married to one of the Kahanamoku boys. She was my P.E. teacher. I played ping-pong with her. She was a good ping-pong player but. I used to challenge her ping-pong. She's a beautiful woman. She's very attractive.

MK: What other activities do you remember at Washington? Some people talked about sports. Some people talked about the plays or. . . .

LJ: Well, one year we had this kind of something like a ground police like. You know in our school we first started was like this kind ground police and you wore these uniforms and make sure the kids stay on the grounds. That particular year, Armistice Day, November 11, our school marched in the parade. Yeah, November 11 and we marched Kalākaua [Avenue] right to the memorial, Waikīkī War Memorial. Before [on] Armistice Day we always had a parade in Waikīkī.

MK: I didn't know that.

LJ: Yeah. Armistice Day we had a parade always in Waikīkī 'cause they had memorial beside that Natatorium. That's why it's full for the First World War, that. The parade was always there, up there, so our school Washington Intermediate marched in that parade and I know 'cause I marched in that parade. I still remember now 'cause we had green and white. I think that represent our school.

MK: That's kinda special then, yeah.

LJ: Yes. Yeah. I wish I could remember but I remember going in that parade, that year.

MK: And then now that you've talked about parades in Waikīkī were there

any other types of parades? Just that Armistice?

LJ: I remember Armistice. I don't remember all these kind of parades that they have now. Maybe because of the trolleys. You know the trolleys running and then the tracks on the road. I'm not too sure. Maybe 'cause of that. Maybe they did have some other parade but I cannot remember right now. Maybe they did have. Maybe some special. I don't know about St. Patrick's Day like they do today. Aloha Week, no. No I don't think they had it like that. Right through Waikiki, I'm not too sure. This Aloha Week Parade is very new. It's not old. It's new.

MK: And then after you went to Washington you went to McKinley . . .

LJ: McKinley [High School].

MK: . . . what did you do at McKinley? What kinds of studies did you get into . . .

LJ: Good, I had Biology class. I tried to take up commercial training. I had a good teacher. I guess it's because of me. You see I was interested in that subject but then but not my parents, yeah. I needed a typewriter [at] home and all that kind stuff and I never had it. So when you don't have something you cannot do it. You gotta have it so you can learn.

Those days the schools don't let you nothing, you know. I no care. I don't care what, [it] is not like today, [where] you can, you get privileges for use, you go in the library, study, you cannot those days. They didn't have it. Neither did the libraries have what they have today. No way. Now today the kids are fortunate. They giving 'em to them right there. Our days we cannot have 'em. We gotta buy everything or your parents gotta take you or something.

Anyway I didn't have all these things at home and I was the only child in the house so I needed something for me. For a while nobody next door go to school, only me, was going to school in that area. Everybody wen quit school and they got married and I was going to school by myself and all that kind stuff and my friend was going with boyfriends and I---you know my mind was for go school. I had the hardest time so I gave up.

My junior year, I finished my junior year, though. I had all my credits so I wanted to go back P.G., post grad or try go back summertime make up. I couldn't even get to there summertime because I wanted one typewriter and I wanted something home so I can practice my typing. So my father refused to get me one typewriter so I told 'em I refuse to go school.

MK: So you quit?

LJ: Yeah, I wen quit. I just stayed home. I let him watch me stay home. He no do nothing about it and my grandma was too old, eh.

And I told him I still wanna go back to school. Well you know parents, it was this depression, come on heavy and then the wartime too did come on heavy on him because Pearl Harbor. My father worked at Pearl. But I told my father, "Gee, you must have made enough to buy me one typewriter, gee!" Must have made good you know what I mean? He no even buy me one typewriter. You know it's just at that moment I just felt it. I shouldn't have. I am sorry to this day that I wen quit because I supposed to walk [graduate] with my class. But because of that, that's why I didn't go.

MK: So what year did you quit?

LJ: I was supposed to be a '46 grad.

MK: Oh. So about then.

LJ: [Nineteen] forty-six yeah. Right about just that time the war [World War II]. The war just ended and you know for catching bus for going to [school] was hard and only me, you know what I mean. Nobody take me to the bus stop. I walk myself.

MK: So wartime, how did that affect your life in Waikīkī?

LJ: Rough. It wasn't like, how you say, very rough. We had to stand in line for our foods. We had ration cards and all of that. I used to go to school with gas masks. When we went to intermediate we had to wear gas masks. Everyday I go school we had to make sure the school---before we went to school everybody had to have their gas masks. So we went to school with gas masks.

And then as far as lunches I never took any. I never bought any. I always did have something that I could munch on. Still you had to stay in school and you cannot leave the grounds unless you let the office know you going outside eat or something. McKinley [High School] I did a lot of that, running around the corner, but I no eat.

I just go with my friends and then my counselor caught me out on the road. I was a junior already. I told 'em, "I cannot eat this lunch in here 'cause I no eat that kind of lunches. I just like a piece of bread or maybe a soda."

In those days you drink soda in a bottle. They no make ice cups today. You drink from a bottle. No more canned soda. Everything bottled, right. Never had nothing in the cans. Everything you drank was in a bottle. Coke, Pepsi, orange, strawberry, root beer, bottle. Sunkist. I used to like Sunkist sodas.

And then they had, what you call, it begins with an "S." I forget the name of that soda company. We used to drink that. We used to drink---they had Cokes but the Cokes are stronger those days and now and the Pepsis you know was good sodas those days. Seven-up, you know was all in bottles. That's all I used to take just

sandwich and that.

MK: That was during wartime?

LJ: Yeah. You cannot have too much of the goodies during the war now. Know what I mean, everything was rationed.

MK: How else did the war affect you? How about curfews. . . .

LJ: Curfew. We had to be home. You couldn't go on the beaches. They had barb wires. How you going? They had barb wires in the water. You cannot go on the beaches. I don't remember Waikiki but I know Sans Souci they had barb wires around 'cause you couldn't go there swim 'cause the barb wires were in the water.

I think as far as Fort DeRussy they had barb wires because they had to. As far as the beach in the front of Waikiki I was trying to think if they had in the front there barb wires you cannot go swim. You couldn't even go fishing or something like that because all barb wire around there.

I think they used to have Maluhia Club in Waikiki. That's where a lot of service people used to go. It was a nice spot for them. I think all alongside that wall all the way to the Natatorium all barb wire. We used to have Queen's Surf too. All barb wire 'cause that's the ocean, eh. I think even in front of Halekulani and old Royal Hawaiian [Hotel] I think they were all blocked off.

MK: How did you feel during the war? You were carrying gas masks, you see the barb wire. Were you really worried or you just. . . .

LJ: No. No. I guess when you're around thirteen, fourteen years old at that time and when the war started I was thirteen so you figure the war went to about '45, '46, around sixteen years old already you start thinking. You think. You know what I mean, what's gonna happen. You think you cannot do this.

But I didn't worry 'cause I wasn't that type. I no smoke and I no drink and you know but those days we don't know what is this paka lolo and all these things down by the corner. We don't know that. We just knew that when your parents tell you get home, you get home. You get home and you wait till when it's daybreak.

Then you can see our house. Our windows are all painted black. We had no more lights go out. We had old-fashioned kind lights. You know the one with the bulb and you put the light on with the switch (with the string or button) in the house. That's the kind lights we had. We never had these light switch, da kine we turn on with the switch old-fashioned kind plug in and you carry the light bulb with you. That's the kind we had not like today, boy. Was beautiful. To me the old days was beautiful. I think. It was more harmony and more peaceful. You don't worry as much as you do today. Today you worry a lot 'cause everything is too fast, too

commercialized. Everything is right there which is good, being right there, but everything happen too quick.

MK: You were telling me last time that you used to be a real beach girl. When was that, when you were. . . .

LJ: Oh. Five years old. I was in the water already with my grandma.

MK: And then later on when you got to be like teenager . . .

LJ: Ho, it was every day.

MK: Every day at the beach?

LJ: Swim. Swim. I never used to hang around but I used to love swimming so that's why I used to swim every day. My grandmother used to get mad at me and I come home from school. If I had little chores I did it. When I finish she look for me I'm gone. I'm down the beach. She used to go down the road and look for me and I'm already down in the water.

I never used to stay out late though. Always maybe hour and I go home. The only time they catch me home is because I get earache too much salt water in my ear. Sore, sore. But when get big waves and time for jump from the walls I'm down there jumping in the water 'cause there's big waves. You no need go out. You just swim in that water 'cause lot of fun, yeah. You can catch wave right inside. That's when I used to go swim.

And like I said I was darker than one pōpolo I beat him 'cause I was so dark. You only see my teeth and my grandmother used to get upset 'cause when I go church I'm the blackest girl in church 'cause you see my teeth because I swim.

(Laughter)

LJ: It wasn't 'cause I was dark. It just that I swim. Swim, swim, swim, swim, swim. And my hair turned color.

MK: Turned all red?

LJ: Yeah, I had long hair before. My hair used to be long and she used to braid 'em. I used to hate the braids but she used to braid it but I still jump in the water. And those were the kind of days we had to take it from our grandparents. She never used to wanna cut my hair and I used to want to cut my hair because long. Every time I go swim get in my way. When I get down there take 'em off. When I go home from swim I put 'em back and she don't know 'cause you gotta rinse off salt water. You have to rinse off, you know. You have to rinse all that salt off.

MK: Those days you know the other kids in Waikīkī. Were they like you in going off to . . .

LJ: Oh yeah, all the kids . . .

MK: . . . to the beach a lot?

LJ: All us kids. We all had our crazy time. If we didn't go swimming afternoon we were swimming late in the evening. Some of them wait for the sun to go down, they go swim. And I guess when you have your moods, yeah. A lot of our kids in our time, we had maybe a little thing for do. Maybe you gotta wash the dishes after they pau eat or maybe you gotta set the table or--like me, my grandma--we always took care of our yard and our house 'cause my mom and my grandma was very neat so I'm always in there with them some place. Either I'm not in the house I'm in the yard with them doing something. If I'm not tired I swim. If I'm tired I don't go.

MK: And then those days, were there beach boys on that part of Waikīkī?

LJ: Yeah.

MK: Who were the beach boys those days?

LJ: Well, the old-timers what I can think of, very old-timers, would be around "Chick" Daniels. I can remember "Chick" and "Freckles" Lyons, one of the old-time boys and they had "Scooter Boy," one of the old-time boys and then you had this guy I used to call him, "David" but I don't know his last name. He was a Hawaiian boy. They were steady people down at the beach. They were older than we were as far as I can remember the full names. There were a lot of them, more, see "Rabbit," "Jammer," the rest of those boys came after these old-timers. You had, Manuwai was a lifeguard. He's an old-timer.

Then you had like this boy that my uncle learned hat weaving from was "Hawksha" so he was [a] Stonewall [Gang boy]. We had a Stonewall beach boys and they had Kuhio, Waikīkī Beach [gang] that time. Oh, that's not now but they used to be that house. And they had Natatorium had their own boys too, Public Baths, the Natatorium had their own. Public Baths had their own. Natatorium had their own.

MK: You ever saw the Stonewall Gang bring tourists? Were there tourists around . . .

LJ: Oh, a lot of the beach boys did that in those days. They had tourists. You didn't have to bring 'em. They never had these tour buses. They had Gray Line in those days. They had stretch outs. They never had buses like they have now. They had stretch outs. And they took 'em around Waikīkī and they took 'em around the island like that. They had those stretch outs and they never had two conductors.

But they did have tour outfits. Maybe she was at that time,

Robinson Tours from Royal Hawaiian. You know they have a little somebody know a little about the Islands 'cause at that time when the Mainlanders came to Hawai'i they were uncivilized. They think we were living in grass huts and all of that stuff. When they would see Lalani Village well maybe, this was a village, but that was in entertainment field but we don't live in grass huts. We're in houses already. Well, that kind. Not like today. Everything is all in books and it's all over the world in pamphlets and they show what Hawai'i look like, those days no.

MK: And in those days your side of Waikīkī, were there tourists that you saw?

LJ: They walk around, yeah. They do. They walk around. They walk around with coconut hats, and the Hawaiian leis and no artificial, all fresh leis. They hardly made artificial leis in those days because they had the lei stands before in the front of Royal Hawaiian [Hotel].

They had these little huts in front of Royal Hawaiian before so when they came out of the hotel then those stands was what, Royal Hawaiian, Halekulani, Moana Hotel. They had those hotels before they--just go across the street just pick up one lei for maybe half a dollar or maybe was a quarter. I don't know how much they was. They were cheap. So they pick up a real lei and they walk around. Maybe they had artificial but they never care for the artificial. They want the smell, yeah.

So they used to walk down beach. Nobody bother them. They walk on the sands, take off their shoes take their camera, nobody bother them on the sand. They just walk up and down on the sand. And those days Waikīkī Beach the sand was clean. From Halekulani all the way over to where the wall is was all clean those days. In fact no had the wall those days. The wall came up later. Had all those stones over there. They no walk there. They just walk as far as 'Ōhūa [Avenue] and they climb up on the wall and then they just walk on the sidewalk. Then they walk all the way down Kalākaua [Avenue] as far as they can go and no problem.

MK: What did you think about tourists those days?

LJ: Never thought much about it because you never thought at that time, maybe was too soon after the war, the tourists would bring a lot of money to Hawai'i, like they do now. You don't have the tourists, no more business, that's how they say, economy, yeah.

In those days you didn't need 'em, 'cause we were still a territory until we became a state. You didn't need anything. We had everything here. You didn't need nobody. All you saw here was the people who was born and raised here when this was a territory. When the people came in they had no problems. That's what I meant until Hawai'i became a state. Then everything changed. Prior to that time it was just like you're living in heaven. Everything was

beautiful.

MK: Those days after the war in the early '50s how was the neighborhood, your neighborhood?

LJ: Good.

MK: So in the late '40s, early '50s, your Waikīkī neighborhood, did it change in any way with people moving out or new businesses . . .

LJ: Yeah, new people moving in. There was a lot of people moving in 'cause on Paoakalani [Avenue] we had the apartments, I used to know before had a lot Haole people. See they had these apartments [i.e., duplexes] going up and a lot of people from the islands, other islands moved in to Waikīkī.

Myra English was one of my neighbors. She moved in on Paoakalani before she got married. And then a lot of our neighbors like Parkers I think. I think they sold their place before that. I don't know when but they did and they moved out and DeRegos moved out and I think corner of Lemon and Paoakalani used to have Akakas, I think they moved. They sold. They moved out. These are all private owned and all the way down was Mrs. (Ruth) Manu. I don't know what they did with their place. I never found out. Bishaws, they all moved away.

We were the last families down there, with the Joy, my grandmother, Kiakahis which was the DeMattas and then the Bishaw girls, the mother sold their place and built an apartment. And then "Buckwheat" [Richards] them, took a long time before they moved out but we moved out first.

MK: How did you feel about all these old neighbors moving out?

LJ: Well, sometime I think it's good and sometime I think it wasn't wise enough. I think we should have stayed there. I feel that way. We should have stayed there.

MK: Why do you say that?

LJ: Well, for one reason, now that I live away from there, and when I go back I always have that aloha for this place where I was born and raised and I get sick because all these apartments going up over there which was already said, we was gonna build some more yet. Was gonna build and build and build.

And yet I know Waikīkī all my life. When it rains, over there's always flooded, always water and you dig only maybe two, three, maybe four feet you touch water already, all sand underneath when you dig already. You know, it's sinking. Really, it's sinking, too much.

Those places we had private homes were better off instead of having

all these tall buildings over there. Private homes makes the place look like a residential area. When you see all these tall buildings, apartments, and bad enough--Ala Wai's up this side and the ocean is this side and we were right in the middle of over here and hey they're digging and digging and digging. And going down, down, down, yeah. That's what I feel.

MK: And then, when did your family move?

LJ: Nineteen fifty-eight.

MK: And why did you folks . . .

LJ: Because my grandmother, my mother wanted to build a new place, an apartment building where we live on the top and we rent the bottom. When the contractor did the job he fell through not us. We didn't, he made an error. And then those days we don't believe in suing so he made an error and he apologized.

MK: So what happened then, what kind of error . . .

LJ: That's when my mother, I cannot say.

MK: Oh, okay. So he made an error . . .

LJ: Yeah.

MK: The deal fell through . . .

LJ: The deal did not. He made the deal but he was at error at that time. I don't know what he did up with my parents. I did not ask. My grandmother was the sole owner. Nobody, was her 'cause she's Hawaiian, eh. So it had to be my mother had to converse with my father, right. So I don't know what went in between there. I think maybe he made her sell and he took money or whatever, got money from the contractor, I don't know. You see they had some kind of deal over there so when they got this money my grandmother said, more better sell the place. She said because already she was disappointed.

So we bought a new home in up in 22nd and Harding [Avenues] in the Kahala area. A brand new home where I wanted her to put my grandma when she's old. Why we buy a home when she go, buy 'em when she's alive so she can enjoy it 'cause that's her money. She bought this home. Everything, all cash. She did not owe anybody no money, not to my knowledge. She paid everything, cash. Those days, you know why, you can, yeah. Right. Nineteen fifty-eight you can, '59 around that area you can.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MK: So in '58, '59, you folks moved out, got a brand new home in the Kaimukī-Kahala area . . .

LJ: We were staying at Lalani Village for the time being. That's where we lived. We took an apartment there so we can watch the house but my grandma lived in the house till they tore it down. She did not move out of there till they tore it down. She stayed in there. She stayed in her home. She had a reason for staying there. I guess the reason was the tie-up that she had when she bought the place. She didn't wanna release it that way so she did her thing and wen pau.

I wanted more so to have her stay in her new home. Otherwise we stay in the new home, enjoy it when she go. I no think it was fair. I think she should have it all which we did and I'm happy but then she cry for her house in Waikīkī because that's where she lived 1916, hard to get away for a person who gonna be eighty-nine years old. She always reminisce, yeah. So I told her, "No, this is a nice place [in Kahala] you picked." Was a beautiful home, though. Was big house. She had a big house, upstairs and downstairs. Was beautiful.

She did all the planting in the yard before she went. My grandma plant all the 'ulu trees, all the mango trees. We had a big mei-sui-lan plant. Everything that you see in the yard today is my grandmother's. I go up there once in a while. I go look at the place. Mangoes, she had good hand. Mangoes didn't have to be tall, to have mangoes, Pākē mango you know, common mango in that yard and 'ulu, that's hers.

MK: So your grandmother spent the last . . .

LJ: Yeah.

MK: . . . part of her life outside of Waikīkī.

LJ: Yeah. Yeah. She's in Kaimukī planting and getting our yard ready. She put the grass, got 'em all ready. She wen plant croton, all those type crotons around our yard because we had a pretty big yard up there and then plants that she had enjoyed from Waikīkī she took with her up there and planted it in there so once in a while, like I said, I take a ride out there and I always look and I know it's hers and she had this kind pua plant they call, "'Ala-aumoe." Ever heard of that plant?

MK: No.

LJ: It's smells nighttime. It has a fragrance, sweet fragrance. It just like a vine, that's hers too. I mean she planted it. She didn't own it but she planted it, those things in our place. We had that, you know. So she did all the things that was beautiful.

She did all the plants. She planted Hawaiian laua'e. We had all kinds, you know.

So I was not sorry that I did not try to I know--do what they taught me. What they taught me what to do, plant, I no can because this not my yard. If I plant, I plant. The other yard I did a lot of planting plumerias.

MK: So when you left Waikīkī in '59?

LJ: Oh, in '60, '61, '62, I was still in Waikīkī yet.

MK: Oh, you still stayed in Waikīkī?

LJ: Yeah.

MK: Where were you staying?

LJ: We still stayed at--one of my friends, down in Waikīkī apartment. I go Waikīkī every time. I used to stay around Waikīkī. In Lalani Village I used to know all of my friends over there so I go over there. I forget what year Mama and 'em moved out. Forget how long they took their place in Lalani Village. We didn't move out right away. That other house set first and then we all moved out to Kaimukī, '62 maybe I stayed around Waikīkī. I really didn't. I really stayed away, '63, '64. '65, '66 I go. Every time once in a while I go back and forth 'cause at that time I don't think they had torn down Waikīkī yet I think. But they didn't tear down the stores yet. So I still used to go back and forth.

MK: When you think back to Waikīkī during the late '40s and the '50s before you folks left Waikīkī, what was along Kalākaua Avenue? You still had the old stores like Aoki, Ibaraki, but as you went towards Ewa what did you see coming up?

LJ: I think the first building that came up was that, what you call that building?--the round building right by the corner of Lili'uokalani and Kalākaua.

MK: Is that Foster Towers?

LJ: Is that Foster Towers?

MK: Yes. Circular building.

LJ: Yeah. And then Kealohilani and Kalākaua [Avenues] had that, that building going up to . . .

MK: Another high-rise.

LJ: Yeah, that high-rise. That's the first two I can remember in that area.

MK: How about down by the Royal Hawaiian [Hotel] side? I'm curious about places like the Pee Wee Golf. . . .

LJ: Oh, pau was broke already.

MK: All gone?

LJ: Was gone already. Pee Wee Golf and Mayflower and all that was already gone already.

MK: Did you hang around that area?

LJ: Yeah. I used to swim in the back of the old Waikīkī Bowling Alley in the back there and then I used to go to the Moana Hotel watch the "Hawai'i Calls" Show. I used to watch the show all the time when Al Perry was there. They had Auntie Vickie and her daughter singing and then they had Al Kealoha Perry and they had the Bright Boys and David Kelii who was a steel player at that time and Webley Edwards was the announcer at that time.

I remember that 'cause I used to be---I know they had the wall over there before and the waves used to come up and I used to sit over there and watch the show 'cause there used to be a balcony on the lanai. (Haunani) Kahalewai was also there and Pua Alameida. See Pua came in the later years but in earlier years was Al Perry them. They were the original (and the Rodrigues family).

MK: So you remember those shows?

LJ: Yeah. They used to have it I think on Saturdays if I'm not mistaken for the tourists, yeah. A lot of tourists sit around on the reef and watch the show and they used to have the waves direct from the ocean and used to make the mikes so you can hear the ocean all around the world, yeah. (Webley Edwards used to let the microphones pick up the sound of the waves at Waikīkī.)

MK: Authentic.

LJ: Yeah. Used to make the waves, you hear the waves at Waikīkī 'cause they used to come right up anyway, the waves. Yeah, they had a lot of--there were all kinds guys swimming up there and you had the old Waikīkī Tavern and they had the Merry-Go-Round Bar in the Waikīkī Tavern. I remember the Merry-Go-Round Bar in the Waikīkī Tavern.

MK: There was really a Merry-Go-Round?

LJ: Yeah.

MK: In there?

LJ: In Waikīkī Tavern, not in the Tavern, was outside.

MK: Oh, okay.

LJ: Inside they had---well you know something like you have this dinner now you go you have a salad bar and you have a dinner. You have the show. They had that in there and then they had a bar outside which you call a Blueroom where all the beach boys used to hang out and outside of the Blueroom when you come to the sidewalk, the main walk going in the back to the beach, that's where the Merry-Go-Round Bar was.

MK: That I've heard about. Kind of well known, yeah.

LJ: Yeah. Then you walk in the back on the beach. All in the back used to be all tourists. Tourists, local, beach boys, you know, lifeguards, people, all kinds of people. It wasn't barred off to anybody but then they were very cautious. You know you don't do things like you do today in those days. There wasn't enough of you, you know today is too much of you. Nobody knows who's who. Today those days they know who's who, yeah.

They used to have all these shows on the road. They started this thing. Yeah. I remember going to that 'cause I live in Waikīkī so I didn't have to catch no bus no nothing, just you know walk on the street, yeah. And we used to have jam sessions down the beach.

MK: Oh, who used to?

LJ: Oh, during the war. The Kalima boys, Jesse Kalima and his family and during blackout Jesse used to go down to the beach a lot and play. Jesse Kalima--when we had a blackout during the war--Jesse lived a block away from where I live on Paoakalani 'cause he used to live on Wainani Way and every time we hear the bass coming around the corner we know they going down, play music.

All the family, nearly all the people in the neighborhood all go walk down with him. We go down to the beach, you know the stone wall, right in the front of Kalākaua and Paoakalani right there and they play--blackout now--blackout and they play music.

See Jesse Kalima used to do this with his brothers Albert Kalima, "Honey" Kalima, Jerry Kalima, Jesse Kalima and some of his, I think his name was, one of the boys was Ralph Reese and some of his other family--go down to the beach and all us used to follow during the war and play music.

MK: Were the Kalimas long-time residents of Waikīkī?

LJ: No. Not there very long. See we were longer. We were there already before Jesse moved to Waikīkī.

MK: Came later . . .

LJ: Yeah, came later on but he stayed long. He stayed after we moved because Wainani [Way] wasn't involved in this kind of building up of these condos like 'cause we were closer to what's coming up

already. But that's what we had in those days. We had jam sessions down at the beach.

MK: Say, that's special. That I never heard of.

LJ: That was a treat for us, instead of staying in the house there was a treat to get out of the house and go down and look at the sky. It was always--we can see and nobody no more lights. I don't know if they smoking. I never took notice but anyway we like music so it was something good, some pastimes, things for us to do.

MK: In the '50s you used to go by the Moana Hotel, you used to go in the back of the Waikīkī Bowling Alley . . .

LJ: Swim.

MK: . . . swimming. What else . . .

LJ: Nice. They had nice sand . . .

MK: . . . did you used to do?

LJ: The sand was nice in the back of hotels, you know by Moana, was all nice sand those days. You can swim over there.

MK: What else did you used to do in Waikīkī that part of Waikīkī?

LJ: Swimming.

MK: Swimming.

LJ: Used to paipo. I did a little surfing but more I swim a lot but I did a little surfing. I did a little with my friends. When I feel like it I go. Otherwise I used to swim a lot, when my mom make limu.

MK: Oh.

LJ: Līpoa.

MK: From over there?

LJ: Yeah, Waikīkī was the place for līpoa. It's the only place.

MK: Was it plentiful?

LJ: Plentiful. Was plentiful. More plentiful in those days. Not like now.

MK: Whereabouts did you folks get it from?

LJ: Oh, all outside there. My uncle knew where the beds were. He knew just where the beds were. He go straight to---that's why the kala

in Waikīkī when you eat you taste the līpoa. Outside there the līpoa was good, the līpoa, strong, stronger smell, and clean, not like today, was clean.

MK: Okay. So you used to do a lot of beach activities, yeah, in Waikīkī?

LJ: Yeah. 'Cause I was the only child at that time in the house so I always told my grandma or my mother where I went and if they know I'm not home they see my shorts gone they know I went down to the beach some place but I never left home without them knowing if I am late or anything. I know I supposed to be home by eight [o'clock p.m.]. We had curfew in those days. We had to be home at eight or you have to be of age to be out. Otherwise they haul you in, the policemen. They no wait for yes, no, my mother said, or what, put you in the car and just take you straight down and book you.

MK: Were there regular cops in Waikīkī those days?

LJ: Yeah. And they didn't wear blue uniforms. They wear the old style, the brown, the ones you call that brown, that donkey suit, excuse me but the old uniforms that the army used to use. You know that army uniform. They used to use that those days.

MK: Who was the cop in your area?

LJ: I trying to think of his name but like I told you the last time I, I forgot his name. I can see his face but I forgot his name, used to have a lot, of cops patrol up there. They used to. They don't fool around those days. They patrol, from one end of Waikīkī to the other end of Waikīkī there was always a cop so I guess they were very attentive or they loved their job or something.

MK: Okay. Now I know after you quit school and everything you stayed home a lot at your grandma's and then you started work as a cab driver. How did you get involved in that in (1956)?

LJ: Sometime I wonder why did I go into it anyway. I wondered it sometime. Maybe 'cause I wanted to be nosy. After that I seen all these tours, like you asked me about tourists and I seen all these tours where I didn't need to, you know. I could have gone into something else but I just wanted to do something else so. In those days you had to take a test. You had to go under the taxi control.

MK: What's that?

LJ: Taxi control, police station. They don't have that now. See in those days to get a taxi driver's license you had to be--they was strict and you don't drive in one junk car in one hotel in those days. We had nice cars. Today they drive all kind and you don't dress the way you dress today, no comb your hair, no put on shoes. Those days we had uniforms. We were always neat. We always had shoes on. We always starch clothes and everything. We were

dressed very neat.

MK: What company did you work for?

LJ: Well, the first company I drove for was Black and White Taxi. It was owned by a Portuguese man. See those days you know girls don't drive.

MK: Yeah, I was gonna ask you about that.

LJ: And girls no drive bus. And girls don't drive bus, period, right. But this guy used to work for Irish Cab. Irish Cab was the cab in those days and Irish went out of business so this boy took over but you cannot carry Irish so he named it Black and White because Irish Cab had something to do with something, something or whatever.

So I went down and I went to the company but you had to go taxi control and at taxi control you had to get a letter from the company. You go down there, and taxi control, take a look at the letter. Then you take test. Take a written test. Then they ask you how much the meter and all that stuff. You don't pass the meter, you don't pass.

So the first time I went I don't know what is that so I didn't pass the test so I didn't wanna do. I just wanted to get nosy in other words. So the second time I went down I wen pass and they have these--taxi control have if you take a load to Waikiki, if you are on your way back--if the stand is in town and if you're on your way back coming through--you can come through Hotel Street, that's your prerogative 'cause you going back to your station--and if there is somebody on the road and they hail you down, you can stop. But if you come from your station, to go down Hotel Street and cruise, cannot. You get a ticket 'cause they check your mileage, yeah. That's how straight it was in those days.

MK: So those days if you wanted a cab you had to call in for a cab?

LJ: Yeah. And then we had two-way radios. We were the first company I think, had two-way radios. We had a dispatcher. He was a good dispatcher, Lum. Then after I drove for this guy a little while then I started to learn how to dispatch. See then he put me there.

MK: Instead of driving?

LJ: Yeah. When you become a dispatcher you automatically, just like you boss, you check your drivers and you look for your drivers. You give them the work schedule. You know all that kind of stuff so I wanted to learn dispatching. So I got in there, so I quit driving.

MK: And then where was the stand?

LJ: At Dillingham and King. That's where the stand was.

MK: Did you folks have a lot of business coming into Waikīkī?

LJ: Yeah. This company had a lot of business. They did a lot of work for the state, picking up. . . . We had people and wheelchair patients. We had to know how to lift the wheelchair, put 'em in the car, take them up to rehab. You know all that kind, and take 'em up to the steps, you know. Very few places had ramps those days. You gotta make your own, how to get 'em up and all that kind. It's hard work.

MK: And then what kind of business did you folks have in Waikīkī?

LJ: Hotels. Airport. Airport load and then we had a lot of service boys going back to the bases 'cause we was in the middle. We can go Pearl Harbor or we can go out to Hickam. I mean Hickam, Schofield and Kane'ohe. See we was right here. This was the center that we can go here. You go Waikīkī you can imagine how much the cost, so it was here so it was close to Pearl, Schofield, Kane'ohe, Hickam. So you can see that they made a lot of money.

But then we also had Charley's Taxi. After JB went out of business I went to Charley's work for Mrs. Morita. I drove for her first. Then I went dispatching. The only thing wrong with dispatching though, you come on salary. But if you drive you live on your tips. See you make more on your tips than you make behind dispatching 'cause you get salary.

MK: And your tips would be that good? You could live on your tips?

LJ: Yeah. Let me tell you. You can live on your tips in those days.

MK: How about the pay for taxi drivers, straight pay?

LJ: No. No, no, no, no. You get commission.

MK: Commission.

LJ: Sixty [percent]/40 [percent], I think. You get commission pay because they take in the maintenance of the car. You don't.

MK: Who owns the car then?

LJ: The company.

MK: So you don't drive your own car then?

LJ: No, no. In those days the company take care of everything. They pay the gas, the mileage and they pay the radios and they pay the bill and the maintenance of the car. All you do is drive. That's why they go 60 [percent]/40 [percent] and whatever tips you make are your tips. They cannot take the tips from you. A lot of them, they lived off their tips and in those days you can make the tips.

MK: So which job did you like better then, dispatching or driving?

LJ: Driving. Anybody would tell you driving. Those days the salary, you only got dollar quarter [\$1.25/hour] and the highest you win would be dollar half [\$1.50/hour]. Those days the minimum wage was cheap. Not like today. They take out this, take out that. It's small pay, yeah, but that's what we lived on.

But if you drive you go two times that amount because you always have money in your pocket every day 'cause when you go out, drive, you bound to make a dollar tip here, a dollar tip. . . . And it's always money in your pocket. 'Cause if you short on something you can pay your light bill. You get the money for pay and then whatever tips you make after--maybe you get a little groceries--you buy the groceries and you take 'em home. And whatever you have after it's yours 'cause you no need buy the gas. You just take care of your house, that's all. . . . Take care of your rent or whatever.

In those days the rent--how low the rent was? Eighty-five dollars to a hundred dollars rent, right. Today it's \$3[00], \$4[00], \$5[00], \$600 rent, but not those days. You can't afford it. But still yet you had hard time 'cause you spent a lot. You had spent a lot. That was the difference in our days.

MK: And like those days did you ever have any problems being a driver?

LJ: Well, not like today. I had problems, little bit, especially if the boys are drunk. I stop in the middle of the road and I throw 'em out and I go home. I go back.

(Laughter)

LJ: That's all I do. I just stop right in the middle of the road or one--on the bridge, and I just throw 'em off by the bridge and I stop the car and go. I said, "Catch one other cab. I can't be bothered," 'cause you don't argue. But I get out before they start doing something.

Then here the cops always there. The drivers always there say, "Where you?" They always check at a dispatcher so I tell 'em where I stay. So no sooner our car was always around.

No sooner you call, one cab in the back, "What happened?"

I say, "This biscuit over here is getting 'goofy.'"

The boy jump out. I stay there and they stopped. Then the boy, they pick 'em up. I say, "You take 'em back to the base, take the trip." I let 'em have the trip. See, you not gonna go into that kind of hassle. Because the service boys when they feeling good and they drunk, that's it.

I make trips to Kāne'ohe and I never had a bad time when I go through the Kāne'ohe-Kailua Drive-in, I go through the back road, I never had problem. Although my eyes are always on the mirror. My eyes are always on the mirror but if there's one guy I put 'em in the front with me and my hands are always ready in case he starts something. But we never had that problem. Thank God for that.

We never had as much problem as they have now, problem. And we don't come out and show cash like they do now, you know what I mean. You bring out all your cash and you show, you know guys they look, you got plenty money now. We don't do that kind of stuff before. We don't. Now they bring 'em all out, sure the guy, see he got plenty money he call one cab and that's the same guy you wen pick up and he know you get money. Probably that's the same guy, then here you go. He like your money in your pocket.

MK: Nowadays it's rough.

LJ: You have to be very cautious. When you become a cab driver you gotta be very cautious. Gotta watch your side, You gotta watch your back, your back mostly 'cause they usually rap you from the back, yeah, especially women, be very careful, try to get a job with a tour so the dispatcher gotta be alert too. They gotta know where the driver's at, time your drivers. Those days we time our drivers. We know where they stay. Today they don't time you as long as you make the money they no care, they let you go, but no our days we time. If a girl went this way we look how long this girl's supposed to be here. Otherwise we send somebody out already to cover.

MK: So those days you folks were real cautious, yeah?

LJ: Very cautious. Everybody got into a fight, we all got into one fight. There was always---you helped somebody or else call the cops.

MK: And then after you worked for Yellow Cabs . . .

LJ: Yellow Cab of Hawai'i.

MK: . . . you went to work for. . . .

LJ: Liana of Waikīkī.

MK: As a . . . ?

LJ: Courier. And then learned about manufacturing perfume. I learned how to bottle. I learned how to pack and I learned about, what you call that kind when you, you know the spray?--how you cap the spray. I forgot they had a name for that but I forgot. I know I run the machines. . . . You gotta know how to cap the machines.

MK: Oh, so you worked over there in a factory too . . .

LJ: All over. I did if I'm not delivering, waiting for orders to go out, going in the plant 'cause you like learn, yeah. You like learn how to cap and how to pour, eh, so I go learn with the girls. And at that time you get a dollar half [\$1.50/hour], two [\$2.00/hour], you know what I mean. That's low wages till I made two and a half [\$2.50/hour] driving. I came out with two and a half [\$2.50/hour], the minimum wage. Hard work. Four and half years I worked for him.

MK: Liana of Waikīkī?

LJ: Yeah. Till when he move down to the Virgin Islands.

MK: And then I have one last question for you , okay. What do you feel about Waikīkī, since you're a Waikīkī girl?

LJ: I love it. And I miss it. And I'll always remember the good times. (After all, I was born and raised on Paoakalani Avenue. I will always remember the families I was raised with and the beach with lots of aloha!!!)

MK: I'm gonna end it here then, okay.

END OF INTERVIEW

WAIKĪKĪ, 1900 - 1985: ORAL HISTORIES

Volume I

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